LISTING OF THE (AMENDED) CLAIMS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing voice quality of a communication system comprising:

transmitting reference speech samples into said communication system;

receiving said reference speech samples captured at one or more ~~outputs of a signal processing element~~processing points within ~~of~~ a gateway ~~of~~within said communication system; and

determining voice quality scores based on said captured reference speech samples.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 further comprising displaying said voice quality scores graphically.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said displaying occurs by way of a graphical user interface.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11 further comprising determining and displaying statistical information related to said voice quality scores.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said statistical information comprises an average voice quality score and a variance.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said gateway comprises a voice over IP gateway.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) A system for monitoring degradation of voice quality in a communication system comprising:

a first voice analysis platform for transmitting a reference speech sample through a communication system; and

a second voice analysis platform for receiving said reference speech sample transmitted through said communication system, said communication system comprising one or more signal processing elements used to process said reference speech sample, said first voice analysis platform or said second voice analysis platform receiving a selected output from a signal processing element of said one or more signal processing elements, said output used to compute a voice quality score.

20. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a codec.

21. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a voice activity detector.

22. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises an echo canceller.

23. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a packetizer.

24. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a jitter buffer.

25. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a comfort noise generator.

26. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more corresponding voice quality scores comprises PESQ.

27. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more corresponding voice quality scores comprises PAMS.

28. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said one or more corresponding voice quality scores comprises PSQM.

29. (New) The system of Claim 19 wherein said first voice analysis platform comprises a software module, said software module comprising software that provides configuration data to a gateway, said gateway comprising said one or more signal processing elements, said configuration data used in determining said selected output from one or more outputs corresponding to said one or more signal processing elements.

30. (New) A system for monitoring degradation of voice quality in a communication system comprising:

a voice analysis platform for transmitting and receiving a reference speech sample through a communication system, said communication system comprising one or more signal processing elements used to process said reference speech sample, said voice analysis platform receiving a selected output from a signal processing element of said one or more signal processing elements, said output used to compute a voice quality score.

31. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a codec.

32. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a voice activity detector.

33. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises an echo canceller.

34. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a packetizer.

35. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more corresponding voice quality scores comprises PESQ.

36. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more corresponding voice quality scores comprises PAMS.

37. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more corresponding voice quality scores comprises PSQM.

38. The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a jitter buffer.

39. The system of Claim 30 wherein said one or more signal processing elements comprises a comfort noise generator.

40. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein said voice analysis platform comprises a software module, said software module comprising software that provides configuration data to a gateway, said gateway comprising said one or more signal processing elements, said configuration data used in determining said selected output from one or more outputs corresponding to said one or more signal processing elements.

41. (New) A method of assessing voice quality at various points along a communication system comprising:

transmitting a reference speech sample from a first voice analysis platform to a second voice analysis platform;

monitoring one or more outputs of one or more signal processing elements of said communication system; and

using said one or more outputs to generate one or more corresponding voice quality scores.

42. (New) The method of Claim 41 further comprising displaying said one or more voice quality scores graphically.

43. (New) The method of Claim 42 wherein said displaying occurs by way of a graphical user interface.

44. (New) The method of Claim 41 further comprising determining and displaying statistical information related to said voice quality scores.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said statistical information comprises average voice quality scores and variances.

46. (New) The method of Claim 41 wherein said voice quality scores are generated using a PESQ algorithm.

47. (New) The method of Claim 41 wherein said voice quality scores are generated using a PAMS algorithm.

48. (New) The method of Claim 41 wherein said voice quality scores are generated using a PSQM algorithm.

49. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said one or more processing points comprises a codec.

50. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said one or more processing points comprises a voice activity detector.

51. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said one or more processing points comprises an echo canceller.

52. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said one or more processing points comprises a packetizer.

53. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said one or more processing points comprises a jitter buffer.

54. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said one or more processing points comprises a comfort noise generator.